MARVEL

2

CLAREMONT
KOTIAN
GRUNDETJERN

GAMBIT

Remy LeBeau is a thief. Growing up in New Orleans, he honed his craft from a young age as part of the Thieves Guild.

He is also a **mutant**, and with his power to draw out the potential energy of any given object, he can make even something as harmless as a simple playing card an item of explosive force to be reckoned with.

Remy has used his powers and skills to lead a life of adventure and intrigue, traveling and stealing and gallivanting under the nom de guerre...

GAMBIT

Gambit's devil-may-care lifestyle has crossed his path with that of **Ororo Munroe**, A.K.A. **Storm**--the leader of the mutant heroes known as the **X-Men**.

But a recent encounter with the villainous **Nanny** and **Orphan-Maker** has left Ororo de-aged back to childhood, with her memory and mutant power to control the weather unreliable at best.

Remy has taken young Ororo under his wing, advancing the thieving skills she first developed as a child on the streets of Cairo. After settling an old score with the **Shadow King**, the pair are in search of a new adventure. Little do they know that Remy has become the target of a bounty hunter from beyond the stars...

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This story takes place in the previously unexplored time period only glimpsed during UNCANNY X-MEN #267.

Itty · Bitty · Lies

BY CHRIS CLAREMONT & SID KOTIAN

STARRING

GAMBIT (& 'Ro)

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THE EAST BANK OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER, HEADING SOUTH FROM CAIRO, ILLINOIS.

GUY'S NAME IS **REMY**; THE GIRL'S **'RO**. THEY'RE BOTH THIEVES, BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW.

SHE'S BARELY **11** AND HAVING THE TIME OF HER LIFE.

SHE HAS NO IDEA THAT'S ALL ABOUT TO **END**.

SIMPLE EQUATION: BLIND CURVE, NARROW ROAD.

ONCOMING CARS LOOK LIKE THEY'RE HAVING A FIGHT.

REMY!

NOWHERE ELSE T' GO--

EVERYONE'S TOO CLOSE, MOVING TOO FAST.

BARELY TIME TO REALIZE WHAT'S HAPPENING--

--GOTTA TRY T' THREAD THE NEEDLE.

--MUCH LESS REACT.

REMY!

HOLD ON, GIRL--

--WE GONNA HIT--

IMPACT'S BRUTAL.

OLDER CAR, NO AIRBAGS.

REMY'S STOPPED BY THE WHEEL.

'RO, BY THE WINDSHIELD.

DAMN, THAT HURT.

CAN'T WORRY 'BOUT ME.

IT'S 'RO, NEEDS SAVIN'!

GIRL AIN'T MOVIN'.

WICKED GASH ON HER HEAD--

--BLOOD ALL OVER.

SHE'S PINNED!

NO TIME T' WASTE.

ONLY GOT THIS ONE SHOT.

CHARGE THE CARDS.

LET 'EM RIP.

NO!

BLAST BROKE MY HOLD ON HER!

NOW THE CURRENT'S PULLIN' US APART!

WATER'S TOO DARK, FLOW'S TOO FAST.

AH LOSE SIGHT OF HER, GIRL'S DONE FOR.

WHASSAT--?!

I'VE GOT THE GIRL!

D'YOU HEAR ME? *I'VE GOT HER!*

GET HER ASHORE--SHE'S HURT!

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

AIN'T ME THA' MATTERS.

HOW'S *'RO?!*

SHE NEEDS CPR RIGHT *NOW,* TO GET HER BREATHING.

TELL ME WHATTA DO.

MINUTES LATER...

'LEAST NOW, WE GOT A PULSE.

HOW LONG TO A HOSPITAL?

TOO LONG.

MY MAMA'S A DOCTOR. I CAN HAVE US THERE IN NO TIME.

PUNCH IT, THEN.

GIRL GOT NONE T' SPARE.

DON'T YOU DARE DIE, LI'L ONE.

THIS AIN'T HOW OUR STORY'S S'POSED T' END, YOU HEAR ME?

YOU AN' ME, 'RO, WE ONLY JUST BARELY BEGUN.

STOP YELLING, REMY.

YOU'RE REALLY MAKING MY HEAD...

...HURT.

AT LONG LAST, THE CHILD AWAKENS.

YOU ARE *ORORO.*

MY NAME'S *'RO.*

AS YOU WISH. I AM *ASHAKÉ.*

YOU ARE MY GRANDDAUGHTER-- MANY, MANY TIMES REMOVED.

?

I HEARD YOUR SCREAM, I CAME TO HELP.

WHERE AM I?

SOMEWHERE SAFE.

YOU FOUGHT THE *SHADOW KING* AND WON.*

AS DID I, LONG AGO.

HE WILL NOT REST TILL HE HAS HIS FULL VENGEANCE.

WITH MY TEACHING...

...YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO DISAPPOINT HIM.

*SEE LAST ISSUE.
--GOALKEEPER MARK

IT'S THE CLOSEST OF CALLS.

BY RIGHTS, 'RO SHOULD HAVE DIED WHEN HER HEAD SHATTERED THE WINDSHIELD. OR DROWNED.

BUT THE CHILD NEVER STOPS FIGHTING.

HER RESCUER'S DOCTOR-MOM PROVES TO BE A LITERAL LIFE SAVER.

THIS STRETCH OF RIVER IS TOO DEPRESSED TO SUSTAIN A PROPER HOSPITAL...

...SO GABRIELLA DeCASTRO DREW ON HER MILITARY EXPERIENCE TO IMPROVISE A FIELD CLINIC IN HER OWN HOME.

THE FIRST NIGHT IS TOUGH. LIKEWISE, THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW.

REMY HASN'T LEFT HER SIDE SINCE THEY ARRIVED, BETTER THAN SEVENTY HOURS NOW.

MR. LeBEAU...?

HMNH?

YOU CAN RELAX, CAJUN.

'RO'S A REAL SCRAPPER.

AND IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S WINNING.

HER VITAL SIGNS ARE STRONG AND STABLE.

YOU CAN RELAX.

YOU SAVED HER, *MARISSA*. I'M IN YO' DEBT.

YOU OWE ME NOTHING, *REMY*. I'M GLAD I COULD HELP.

IF Y' DON' MIND, AH'VE ANOTHER FAVOR T' ASK.

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AND IN DUE TIME...

WATER HAS A BITE TO IT.

NEVER BOTHERS ME.

HMNH! YOUR MAMA WAS ARMY?

A DOCTOR, YEAH. ME, I WAS A MARINE, LIKE MY DADDY. THIS WAS HIS T-SHIRT.

WE FIND ALL YOUR STUFF, THEN?

ALL THAT MATTERS--AH'M IMPRESSED.

YOU KNEW JUS' WHERE T' LOOK T' FIND OUR CAR.

THIS IS MY HOME. FAMILY GOES BACK GENERATIONS. I KNOW THIS STRETCH OF RIVER LIKE I KNOW OUR...

...LAND.

MISS DECASTRO--YOU AND YOUR MOTHER KEEP IGNORING MY CALLS.

I JUST WANT TO TALK.

WE HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU, *SOLARZ*.

MY OFFER'S MORE THAN FAIR.

DOESN'T MATTER. WE'RE NOT SELLING OUR HOME.

MEANIN' NO DISRESPECT, *HOM*, BUT RIGHT NOW, THE LADY AIN'T THE ONE Y'ALL NEED T' WORRY 'BOUT.

I BEG YOUR PARDON?

CAR DROVE ME OFF THE ROAD T'OTHER DAY. AH'M TOLD THE DRIVER, HE WORK F'R YOU.

HE AN' I, WE NEED T' HAVE OURSELVES A--TALK.

WHATEVER HAPPENED, I'M SURE, WAS AN ACCIDENT.

THE GIRL WHO WAS RIDING WITH HIM IS IN A COMA!

HER CONDITION'S CRITICAL!

CHILD TRULY LOVED THAT CAR. BEST RIDE EVER. NOW IT'S GONE.

DUNNO 'BOUT Y'ALL, BUT DOWN MY WAY, WE TAKE THINGS LIKE THIS--

--SERIOUSLY.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A THREAT.

PERISH TH' THOUGHT.

BUT A MAN SHOULD ALWAYS BE CAREFUL.

DRIVE THE WRONG CAR OFF THE ROAD--

--Y'ALL NEVER KNOW WHAT MIGHT COME RIGHT BACK AT'CHA:

BOOM!

NEVER IN MY WHOLE LIFE SAW FOLKS RABBIT SO FAST--ESPECIALLY SOLARZ.

YOU REALLY SCARED THEM, REMY.

SCARED ME TOO.

THAT WAS A TRICK, RIGHT? WHAT YOU DID?

IT WAS WHAT IT WAS--

--AN' YOU OWE ME AN EXPLANATION.

WHAT HAPPENED T'OTHER DAY WAS NO ACCIDENT. SOLARZ WANTED YOU SCARED, OR WORSE.

THIS IS SOME OF THE BEST FARMLAND ON EARTH, REMY.

USED TO BE FAMILY HOMESTEADS-- NOW, NOT SO MUCH.

TIME'S PASSED, THINGS CHANGED, THAT'S THE WAY OF LIFE.

LIKE IT OR NOT.

ROXXON AGRO

HELPING FEED THE WORLD!

SOLARZ IS SOMETHING NEW.

HE WANTS OUR LAND FOR BIG-MONEY ESTATES.

SOME HERE SOLD OUT. MOST DIDN'T.

UNTIL "ACCIDENTS" BEGAN TO HAPPEN.

FORECLOSURE

NO MATTER WHAT FOLKS DO, HE ALWAYS FINDS A WAY TO MAKE US LOSE.

AND NOBODY SEEMS TO CARE.

NOT BANKS, NOT MEDIA, NOT THE LAW. NOT COUNTY GOVERNMENT. NOT THE STATE.

WE'RE ON OUR OWN.

SOLARZ

IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO, GIRL?

THIS ISN'T FAIR!

I WAS *HURT!*

I ALMOST *DIED!*

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THE SHADOW KING CARES?

YOUR MOTHER DIED SAVING YOUR LIFE.

YOUR FATHER DIED TRYING TO SAVE YOU BOTH.

IS THIS HOW YOU HONOR THEIR SACRIFICE--

--BY GIVING UP?

NEVER!

THIS USED TO BE A NATURAL WAYPOINT FOR RIVERBOATS. THEY'D STOP FOR FRESH WOOD, PROVISIONS, PASSENGERS.

TIMES CHANGED BUT THE TOWN REMAINED A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE--

--TILL THE RIVER FLOODED HIGHER AND HIGHER-- MORE AND MORE OFTEN.

TOWN COULDN'T FIGHT THAT.

FACT O' LIFE, SAD T' SAY. LIKE SOLARZ.

DON' MEAN AH WON'T HELP. SKUNKS LIKE HIM ALWAYS NEED T' BE TAUGHT A LESSON.

BUT THA'S ALL.

LIKE THESE FLOODS, SOME THINGS CAN'T BE STOPPED.

CAFE

THAT'S NOT FAIR.

SINCE WHEN BE MAMA MISS FAIR?

RIVER DON' CARE 'BOUT US, *CHÈRE*--SHE'S A FORCE O' NATURE.

SHE DO WHAT SHE WANTS, SAME AS ALWAYS.

WE THE ONES HAVE T' ADAPT.

SOMETIMES WE DANCE.

OTHERS--

WHAK

--WE FIGHT!

REMY?!

WE TALK MORE LATER, CHÈRE!

PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF, MEBBY?

COUNT ON IT, CAJUN.

LOOKS LIKE SOLARZ'S DONE PLAYING NICE.

THA'S WHAT'CHA CALL--

FLIP!

--A SERIOUS MISTAKE!

AMATEURS.

"I TOLD SOLARZ TO BE PATIENT.

"THAT THIS WAS A MISTAKE.

"BUT HE WANTS A TV RESOLUTION:

"FAST AND EASY.

"THAT WON'T HAPPEN WITH THESE TWO.

"SHE'S A FORCE RECON MARINE.

"THE CAJUN'S SOMETHING FAR MORE DANGEROUS.

"HE HAS SUPER-POWERS."

LUCKY FOR HIM--

--SO DO I!

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SOMEONE PICKED UP MY TRUCK!

SOMEONE *THREW* MY *TRUCK!*

CAFE

REMY-- WE GOTTA *GO!*

BOOM!

'RO'S LOST ALL SENSE OF TIME.

IN THIS PLACE, THERE SEEMS TO BE NO NEED FOR FOOD OR REST.

FOR ANY HUMAN NECESSITIES.

SHE FIGHTS.

SHE LEARNS.

SHE FIGHTS.

SHE HASN'T YET WON.

BUT SHE'S GETTING THERE.

THAT'S WHEN THINGS START GOING WRONG.

ASHAKÉ--

--WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?

IS THIS SMOKE PART OF TRAINING?

I CAN'T SEE YOU. WHERE HAVE YOU GONE?

THIS ISN'T FUNNY.

‹IT'S GETTING HARD TO BREATHE.›*

‹I--I'M BACK IN THE REAL WORLD.›

‹BLESSED ANCESTOR--›

‹--I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIRE!›

‹I HAVE TO GO, RIGHT NOW--›

*TRANSLATED FROM ARABIC. --MARK

‹--OH?!›

‹SOMEONE'S LYING BESIDE THE BED.›

‹NOT REMY-- A WOMAN--A DOCTOR?!›

‹SHE'S UNCONSCIOUS!›

‹THE FIRE'S ALL AROUND US-- THERE'S NOWHERE TO GO.›

‹ASHAKÉ-- WHERE ARE YOU?›

‹WHY TRAIN ME AND THEN LEAVE ME TO BURN TO DEATH?!›

‹IS THIS SOME STUPID TEST?›

‹WHY WON'T YOU HELP?!›

÷COUGH÷

‹I'M SORRY.›

÷COUGH COUGH÷

‹I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY.›

÷COUGH COUGH COUGH÷

‹I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY.›

CRACKA-BOOM

〈WHAT'S THAT NOISE?〉

〈THAT WAS THUNDER!〉

〈AND RAIN!〉

〈IT'S A STORM!〉

〈ASHAKÉ MUST'VE HEARD!〉

〈COULD'VE ACTED SOONER, Y'KNOW.〉

〈LUNGS HURT FROM ALL THE SMOKE I BREATHED IN.〉

〈WISH I HAD POWERS THAT WORKED, LIKE ASHAKÉ'S AN' REMY'S.〉

〈CONTROLLING WEATHER'D BE SO GREAT!〉

〈COULD TEACH FIRE A LESSON.〉

〈MAKE THE DESERT BLOOM AGAIN.〉

〈MAYBE TRY TO HEAL THE WORLD!〉

BREATHE EASY, DOCTOR. WE'RE--

OH!

MEANWHILE, DOWN BY THE RIVER...

÷GASP!÷

I DON'T BELIEVE IT. WE'RE ALIVE.

GUESS SOLARZ GOT TIRED O' WAITIN'.

REMY, WHAT ABOUT MY MAMMA-- AN' 'RO?

TILL WE KNOW DIFF'RENT, WE ASSUME THEY ALIVE.

WHAT DO WE DO?

GO SAVE 'EM, O' COURSE.

CAJUN, SOLARZ HAS A MUSCLE GUY WHO THREW MY TRUCK LIKE IT WAS A TOY!

ALL THE BETTER. MAKES THIS MORE OF A FUN FIGHT.

TRUS' ME, *CHÈRE:* YOU AN' ME, WE GON' TEACH THEM ***ALL*** SOME LESSONS THEY'LL ***NEVER*** FORGET.

NEXT ISSUE: REMY'S RUSE--A VERY DIFFERENT GAMBIT!

NEXT:

GAMBIT

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